

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 33 have been canceled. The claims 34, 47 and 49 have been amended. Therefore, claims 34 to 49 remain in this application.

Claims 1 to 33 were withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Election was made without traverse. Therefore, claims 1 to 33 have been canceled.

Independent claims 34 and 49 have been amended to narrow the scope of the claims by substituting the transitional phrase "consisting essentially of" for the phrase "comprising." Support is found in Figure 1, for example.

Claim 47 has been amended to depend on claim 46. This removes the objection set forth in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action mailed March 8, 2006 ("the latest Office Action") under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

In paragraph 4 on page 3 of the latest Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 34, 38, 39, 41 to 43, 47 and 48 as being anticipated by Bomboire US Patent No. 4,089,724 ("Bomboire"). Claim 34 has been amended to require the coated freestanding film to consist essentially of a freestanding film, a print layer and a discontinuous layer on the opposite side of the freestanding film from the print layer. The freestanding film of Bomboire requires a support or base sheet 1, which is not interposed between the print layer and the discontinuous layer. See column 2, lines 10 to 13; column 3, lines 65 and 66; column 5, lines 5 to 10 and 35 to 38; and Figure 2. Therefore, amended claim 1 and the claims 2 to 48, dependent thereon, are allowable.

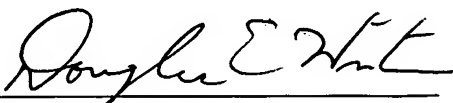
The Examiner also takes the position in paragraph 4 that, with regard to claim 41, Bomboire teaches a film comprising a plurality of film layers, referring to column 5, line 46. However, the film Bomboire discusses at column 5, lines 44 to 46, is the support 1 and not the transparent sheet 41. Bomboire does not teach or suggest the transparent sheet 41, which is interposed between the printed decoration 31 and the discontinuously applied plastisol 33, comprise a plurality of layers. Therefore, claim 41 is allowable over Bomboire for this reason as well.

In paragraph 8 on page 5 of the latest Office Action, claims 45, 46 and 49 have been rejected as being obvious over Bomboire in view of Schmidle US Patent No. 4,273,819. Independent claim 49 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 34 and is allowable over Bomboire in view of Schmidle for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 34.

Therefore, all of the rejections and objections have been met and Attorney for Applicants submits that all the remaining claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, early consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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